

Medway Plantation
Near Charleston
Berkeley County
South Carolina

HABS NO. SC*140

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

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"Medway"
Pine Grove Vicinity
Berkeley County
South Carolina

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Legendre

Date of Erection: 1636

Architect:

Builder: Jan Van Arrsens, seigneur de Weirnhoudt

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and a half and basement
(one story wings)

Materials of Construction: "Carolina Grey" brick and stucco

Foundation - brick

Roof - Step Gable

Historical Data:

The builder of Medway, Jan Van Arrsens, died shortly after his arrival in Carolina. His widow, Sabina de Vignon, then married Thomas Smith who later became landgrave and then governor of Carolina. Smith became one of the greatest common ancestors of the Low Country through his first wife, for Sabina had no children. He is buried at Medway. A part of the building was destroyed in the earthquake of 1886, but was restored twenty years later. The Dutch style of Van Arrsens' architecture has been maintained through several additions and changes.

Medway owes its planting of trees to two sisters. The larger oaks around the house were set out by Mrs. Theodore Marion Du Bose between 1825 and 1835, and Mrs. Peter C. Stoney set out the double avenue in 1855.

Medway, built only sixteen years after the founding of the colony, and now the oldest house in South Carolina of record, is in plan already typical of the plantation houses to be built in the Low Country during the next hundred years.

This house served John Bennett as the plantation house in his novel, "The Treasure of Peyre Gaillard".

Bibliography:

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard - Plantations of the South Carolina Low Country Charleston, Carolina Art Association, 1938



